Remarks

The present Preliminary Amendment adds a paragraph to properly claim priority from copending United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/534,827 filed on March 23, 2000, sharing at least one common inventor and assigned to Carnegie Mellon University.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims presented herein are fully supported by the application as originally filed and that all claims of the present application should be held patentable. Accordingly, passage of the claims to allowance at an early date is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernard G. Pike

Registration No. 46,993 Attorney for Applicants

Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP

Henry W. Oliver Building 535 Smithfield Street Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2312

Phone: (412) 355-8620 Facsimile: (412) 355-6501